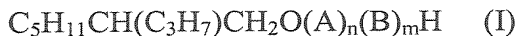


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A mixture comprising alkoxylates of the formula

(I)



wherein the mixture comprises

70 to 99% by weight of alkoxylates A1 wherein C_5H_{11} is $n\text{-C}_5\text{H}_{11}$, and

1 to 30% by weight of alkoxylates A2 wherein C_5H_{11} is $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2$ and/or

$\text{CH}_3\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$,

wherein

A is ethyleneoxy,

B is C_{3-10} -alkyleneoxy or mixtures thereof,

where groups A and B may be present in random distribution, alternately or in the form of two or more blocks in any order,

n is a number from 0 to 30,

m is a number from 0 to 20, and

$n + m$ is at least 1.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The mixture as claimed in claim 1, wherein C_3H_7 is $n\text{-C}_3\text{H}_7$.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The mixture as claimed in claim 1, wherein B is propyleneoxy, n is a number from 1 to 20 and m is a number from 1 to 8.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The mixture as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mixture comprises 85 to 96% by weight of alkoxylates A1 and 5 to 15% by weight of alkoxylates A2.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A process for preparing the mixture as claimed in claim 1, the process comprising:

reacting an alcohol mixture with C₂₋₅-alkylene oxides under alkoxylation conditions, optionally in the presence of a double-metal cyanide compound as catalyst.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A method of preparing a product, the method comprising:

combining the mixture of claim 1 with at least one substance to create the product, wherein the at least one substance is selected from the group consisting of a soap, an anionic surfactant, an organic acid, an inorganic acid, a solvent, a complexing agent, a polymer, a copolymer, an alkali donor, a perfume oil, an oxidizing agent, an enzyme, and combinations thereof, and

~~preparing the mixture as claimed in claim 1 to obtain the product~~, wherein the product is an emulsifier, a foam regulator or a wetting agent for hard surfaces.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the product is a detergent, a surfactant formulation for the cleaning of hard surfaces, a humectant, a cosmetic formulation, a pharmaceutical formulation, a crop protection formulation, a paint,

a coating composition, an adhesive, a leather degreasing composition, a formulation for the textile industry, fiber processing, metal working, food industry, water treatment, paper industry, fermentation or mineral processing or a product to be comprised in emulsion polymerizations.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A washing, cleaning, wetting, coating, adhesive, leather degreasing, humectant or textile-treatment composition or cosmetic, pharmaceutical or crop protection formulation comprising the mixture as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The mixture as claimed in claim 2, wherein B is propyleneoxy, n is a number from 1 to 20 and m is a number from 1 to 8.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The mixture as claimed in claim 2, wherein the mixture comprises 85 to 96% by weight of alkoxylates A1 and 4 to 15% by weight of alkoxylates A2.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The mixture as claimed in claim 3, wherein the mixture comprises 85 to 96% by weight of alkoxylates A1 and A4 and 4 to 15% by weight of alkoxylates A2.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): A process for the preparation of the mixture as claimed in claim 2, the process comprising:

reacting an alcohol mixture with C₂₋₅-alkylene oxides under alkoxylation conditions, optionally in the presence of a double-metal cyanide compound as catalyst.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): A process for the preparation of the mixture as claimed in claim 3, the process comprising:

reacting the alcohol mixture with C₂₋₅-alkylene oxides under alkoxylation conditions, optionally in the presence of a double-metal cyanide compound catalyst.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A process for the preparation of the mixture as claimed in claim 4, the process comprising:

reacting an alcohol mixture with C₂₋₅-alkylene oxides under alkoxylation conditions, optionally in the presence of a double-metal cyanide compound catalyst.

Claims 15-17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): A washing, cleaning, wetting, coating, adhesive, leather degreasing, humectant or textile-treatment composition or cosmetic, pharmaceutical or crop protection formulation comprising the mixture as claimed in claim 2.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A washing, cleaning, wetting, coating, adhesive, leather degreasing, humectant or textile-treatment composition or cosmetic, pharmaceutical or crop protection formulation comprising the mixture as claimed in claim 3.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A washing, cleaning, wetting, coating, adhesive, leather degreasing, humectant or textile-treatment composition or cosmetic, pharmaceutical or crop protection formulation comprising the mixture as claimed in claim 4.